

# Texas Lyceum Poll

Spring 2008  
Texas Statewide Survey

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT  
N=1,000 Adults  
June 12-20, 2008

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Q1. Are you registered to vote in the state of Texas?

81% Yes, registered.  
19% No, not registered.  
\* Don't know/Refused/NA.  
(\*: less than 1%)

Q2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are extremely interested in politics and public affairs, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?

<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	
33%	33%	Extremely interested.
52%	48%	Somewhat interested.
8%	8%	Not very interested.
6%	10%	Not at all interested.
1%	1%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q3. There are many elections in the state of Texas. Furthermore, many people intend to vote in a given election, but sometimes personal and professional circumstances keep them from the polls. Thinking back over the past two or three years, would you say that you voted in all elections, almost all, about half, one or two, or none at all?

20% Every election.  
30% Almost every election.  
12% About half.  
13% One or two.  
24% None.  
1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q4. Thinking about the country, do you things are moving in the right direction or are we off on the wrong track?

<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	
23%	28%	Right direction.
70%	62%	Wrong track.
7%	10%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing the country today? [OPEN-ENDED]

	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>
33%	The Economy.	39%	The War in Iraq.
20%	Prices/Gas/Energy.	10%	Immigration/Illegal immigration.
14%	The War in Iraq.	6%	Morals/Religion/Values.
6%	Leadership/Election/Gridlock/Corrupt.	6%	Terrorism/Security.
4%	Immigration.	4%	The Economy.
4%	Security.	4%	Other.
3%	Health Care.	4%	Environment/Energy.
3%	Morals.	4%	Jobs/Poverty/Out-sourcing.
2%	Foreign Affairs.	3%	Health care/Insurance.
2%	Religion.	3%	Education/Public Schools.
2%	Terrorism.	3%	Prices/Inflation/Gas prices.
1%	Abortion.		
1%	Education.		
1%	Environment.		
1%	Human Rights.		
*	Poverty.		
*	Drugs/Crime.		
3%	Other/Don't Know.		

Q6. What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Texas today? [OPEN-ENDED]

	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>
21%	Prices/Gas/Energy.	22%	Immigration/Illegal immigration.
20%	Immigration.	21%	Education/Public Schools.
17%	The Economy.	9%	Other.
12%	Education.	7%	Prices/Inflation/Gas prices/Cost of living.
7%	Leadership/Election/Gridlock/Corrupt.	4%	Health care/Insurance.
4%	Health Care.	4%	Crime/Drugs/Violence.
4%	Traffic/Road.	3%	Environment/Growth/Resources/Water/Energy.
2%	Environment.	3%	Jobs/Poverty/Out-sourcing.
2%	Taxes/Property Taxes.	3%	Taxes.
1%	Drugs/Crime.	2%	The War in Iraq.
1%	Home Prices.	2%	Roads/Transportation/Trans-Texas Corridor.
1%	Morals.	2%	The Economy.
1%	The War in Iraq.		
5%	Other.		
3%	None/Don't Know.		

Q7. Compared to a year ago, do you think the country is better off, worse off, or about the same economically?

<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	
4%	22%	Better off.
78%	35%	Worse off.
17%	43%	About the same.
1%	1%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q8. What about you? Compared to a year ago, would you say that you are better off, worse off, or about the same economically?

<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	
22%	32%	Better off.
35%	19%	Worse off.
42%	50%	About the same.
1%	*	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q9. Looking ahead to the future, do you think your children will be better off than you are, worse off, or about the same economically?

<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	
39%	47%	Better off.
30%	27%	Worse off.
21%	20%	About the same.
10%	6%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Now, I'm going to ask you some questions about transportation issues here in Texas...

Q10. How do you generally get to work or school—do you drive yourself, ride with someone else, walk, bicycle, take mass transportation, or something else? (If you work at home, please feel free to say so.)

68%	Drive yourself.
8%	Ride with someone else.
1%	Walk.
2%	Bicycle.
2%	Take mass transportation.
2%	Something else.
4%	Work at home.
11%	Does not commute to work or school.
2%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q11. How much total time do you spend commuting to and from work in a typical day?

- 37% Less than 30 minutes.
- 38% between 30 and 60 minutes.
- 10% between 60 and 90 minutes.
- 7% between 90 and 120 minutes.
- 5% more than 120 minutes.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q12. Do you own a vehicle?

- 88% Yes.
- 12% No.

Q13. How many days a week do you use it to drive to work or school?

- 7% 0 Days.
- 3% 1 Day.
- 3% 2 Days.
- 7% 3 Days.
- 5% 4 Days.
- 55% 5 Days.
- 11% 6 Days.
- 10% 7 Days.
- 1% Don't know/Refused.

Q14. Do you talk on your cell phone when you are driving?

- 44% Yes.
- 50% No.
- 6% Don't have a cell phone.

Q15. Would you support or oppose a ban on cell phone use while driving? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

- 23% Strongly oppose.
- 14% Somewhat oppose.
- 16% Somewhat support.
- 44% Strongly support.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q16. Compared to other important issues facing the state, how important is reducing traffic congestion?

- 49% Very important.
- 35% Somewhat important.
- 12% Not very important.
- 4% Not important at all.
- \* Don't know/Refused/NA.

Next I am going to read you a list of things people have talked about doing in response to rising gas prices. For each, please tell me if it is something you would STRONGLY consider doing.

Q17. Buying a hybrid or fuel efficient automobile.

- 66% Yes.
- 33% No.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q18. Carpooling to work or school

- 63% Yes.
- 34% No.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q19. Not taking a vacation this summer

- 51% Yes.
- 48% No.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q20. Taking public transportation to work or school

- 53% Yes.
- 44% No.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q21. Eventually moving someplace where the commute isn't so far

- 37% Yes.
- 62% No.
- 1% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about funding for transportation projects in Texas.

Q22. Do you think state and local governments in Texas should be spending much more money on projects to improve our airports, a little bit more, about the same as now, a little bit less, or much less?

- 8% Much more.
- 26% A little bit more.
- 39% About the same.
- 11% A little bit less.
- 10% Much less.
- 6% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q23. Do you think state and local governments in Texas should be spending much more money on projects to improve our rail system, a little bit more, about the same as now, a little bit less, or much less?

- 26% Much more.
- 32% A little bit more.
- 21% About the same.
- 8% A little bit less.
- 10% Much less.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q24. Do you think state and local governments in Texas should be spending much more money on projects to improve our ports, a little bit more, about the same as now, a little bit less, or much less?

- 13% Much more.
- 31% A little bit more.
- 31% About the same.
- 7% A little bit less.
- 7% Much less.
- 11% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q25. More generally, would you support or oppose the state of Texas allowing private business contractors to handle transportation projects and improvements? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

- 22% Strongly oppose.
- 19% Somewhat oppose.
- 29% Somewhat support.
- 24% Strongly support.
- 6% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q26. Would you support or oppose the state of Texas raising money to pay for transportation projects and improvements by increasing the gas tax? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

60% Strongly oppose.  
12% Somewhat oppose.  
12% Somewhat support.  
14% Strongly support.  
2% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Using a scale from 0-10, where 0 means you are extremely unfavorable to the idea and 10 means you are extremely favorable towards the idea, please rate how you feel about each of the following approaches to dealing with transportation issues...

Q27. Committing additional resources to repairing and improving existing roads and highways.

9% Unfavorable (0-4)  
21% Neutral (5)  
70% Favorable (6-10)

7.0 Average

Q28. Spending money to build new roads and highways.

20% Unfavorable (0-4)  
23% Neutral (5)  
57% Favorable (6-10)

6.1 Average

Q29. Spending money to build new toll roads and highways.

45% Unfavorable (0-4)  
14% Neutral (5)  
41% Favorable (6-10)

4.8 Average

Q30. Committing additional resources to mass transit systems, such as light rail.

20% Unfavorable (0-4)  
15% Neutral (5)  
65% Favorable (6-10)

6.6 Average

Q31. Committing additional resources to mass transit systems, such as energy efficient and “next generation” buses.

16% Unfavorable (0-4)  
13% Neutral (5)  
71% Favorable (6-10)

7.1 Average

Now we’d like to know a little more about your opinions on toll roads...

Q32. Would you support or oppose the state of Texas collecting tolls on new highways? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

46% Strongly oppose  
20% Somewhat oppose  
17% Somewhat support  
15% Strongly support  
2% Don’t know/Refused/NA

Q33. Would you support or oppose the state of Texas collecting tolls on existing highways? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

53% Strongly oppose  
16% Somewhat oppose  
17% Somewhat support  
12% Strongly support  
2% Don’t know/Refused/NA

Q34. Would you say that you drive on toll roads on a regular basis, occasionally, only rarely, or never?

8% On regular basis.  
29% Occasionally.  
32% Only rarely.  
31% Never.  
\* Don’t know/Refused/NA.



Next, I'd like to know your opinions on route planning and about what level of government should be responsible for transportation projects....

Q35. Generally speaking, do you think local governments should be responsible for designing new roads and highways, or should the appropriate state agency be responsible for designing new roads in Texas?

- 37% The local government should be responsible.
- 56% Appropriate state agency should be responsible.
- 7% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Okay, just one more question on transportation...

Q36. Some people have proposed high-speed rail systems connecting adjacent cities, such as Dallas and Fort Worth or Austin and San Antonio. Do you support or oppose building regional rail systems? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

- 13% Strongly oppose.
- 8% Somewhat oppose.
- 25% Somewhat support.
- 50% Strongly support.
- 4% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q37. As you may know, eminent domain is the right of the state to take private property for public use, so long as property owners are compensated. Would you support or oppose the state of Texas exercising its power of eminent domain to secure right of way for new transportation projects? Would that be strongly or just somewhat support/oppose?

- 36% Strongly oppose.
- 15% Somewhat oppose.
- 24% Somewhat support.
- 19% Strongly support.
- 6% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Now we look to the future and politics...

Q38. If the 2008 general election were held today, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE NAMES] Democrat Barack Obama, Republican John McCain, Independent Ralph Nader, Libertarian Bob Barr, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (N=478):

38%	Obama.
43%	McCain.
1%	Nader.
1%	Barr.
13%	Have not thought enough about it.
4%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q39. In the election for U.S. Senate, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE NAMES] Democrat Rick Noriega, Republican John Cornyn, or haven't you thought enough about it?

Among Likely Voters (N=478):

36%	Noriega.
38%	Cornyn.
24%	Have not thought enough about it.
2%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q40. Thinking ahead to the 2010 gubernatorial election, which of the following potential Republican candidates are you most likely to support? [RANDOMIZE NAMES]

22%	Rick Perry.
35%	Kay Bailey Hutchison.
2%	Florence Shapiro.
4%	David Dewhurst.
2%	Michael Williams.
*	Other.
16%	None.
19%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q41. Which of the following potential Democratic candidates are you most likely to support? [RANDOMIZE NAMES]

13%	Chris Bell.
2%	Paul Hobby.
10%	Bill White.
7%	John Sharp.
8%	Ron Kirk.
1%	Other.
17%	None.
42%	Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q42A. If the 2010 gubernatorial election were held today would you vote for Republican Rick Perry, Democrat Bill White, or haven't you thought enough about it?

- 32% Perry.
- 29% White.
- 35% Have not thought enough about it.
- 4% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Q42B. If the 2010 gubernatorial election were held today would you vote for Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, Democrat Bill White, or haven't you thought enough about it?

- 34% Hutchison.
- 25% White.
- 38% Have not thought enough about it.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

Finally, a few final questions for statistical purposes...

AGE. *In what year were you born?* \_\_\_\_\_(1910-1988)

- 20% 18-29
- 32% 30-44
- 19% 45-54
- 13% 55-64
- 16% 65+

COLLAPSED REGION.

- 28% North.
- 31% East.
- 21% South.
- 20% Central/West.

LOCATE. Would you say you live in an urban, suburban, or rural area?

- 28% Urban.
- 42% Suburban.
- 27% Rural.
- 3% Don't know/Refused/NA.

MARRIED. What is your current martial status?

- 26% Never married.
- 59% Married.
- 6% Divorced.
- 7% Widowed.
- 2% Separated.
- \* Don't know/Refused/NA.

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2006?

- 14% Less than \$15K.
- 8% \$15K-\$25K.
- 16% \$25K-\$40K.
- 23% \$40K-\$75K.
- 18% \$75K-\$150K.
- 6% \$150K+.
- 15% Don't know/Refused/NA.

EDOFER. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- 8% Less than high school.
- 27% High school.
- 22% Some college.
- 28% College degree.
- 15% Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD).
- \* Don't know/Refused/NA.

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination? [open-ended, pre-codes]

17% Baptist.  
1% Episcopalian/ Anglican/ Church of England.  
2% Lutheran.  
6% Methodist.  
\* Reformed.  
1% Evangelical United Brethren.  
4% Protestant. (non-specific)  
16% Christian. (non-specific)  
\* Christian Scientist.  
1% Church of Christ.  
\* United Church of Christ.  
\* Disciples of Christ.  
1% Church of God.  
1% Assembly of God.  
\* Congregationalist.  
\* Holiness.  
1% Pentecostal.  
\* Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox.  
\* Mormon.  
\* Jehovah's Witnesses.  
\* Latter Day Saints.  
\* Unitarian/Universalist.  
\* Buddhist.  
\* Hindu.  
\* Muslim/Islam.  
28% Catholic.  
\* Jewish.  
1% Presbyterian.  
4% Other.  
2% Agnostic [skip ATTEND]  
1% Atheist. [skip ATTEND]  
8% None.  
5% Don't know/Refused/NA. [skip ATTEND]

RACE. Would you say that you are...

54% White.  
11% African American.  
32% Hispanic.  
3% Other.  
\* Don't know/Refused/NA.

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are...

19% Liberal.  
34% Moderate.  
42% Conservative.  
5% Don't know/Refused.

PID (Seven-Point Scale).

26% Strong Democrat.  
10% Weak Democrat.  
8% Lean Democrat.  
23% Independent.  
9% Lean Republican.  
8% Weak Republican.  
15% Strong Republican.  
1% Else.

COLLAPSED PID (Three-Point Scale).

44% Democrat.  
23% Independent.  
32% Republican.  
1% Else.

GENDER. (BY OBSERVATION)

50% Male.  
50% Female.

Thank you very much. We really appreciate your time this evening!